

# The Stouffville Tribune

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## Notes and Comments

### What Shall We Sow on the Sabbath Day?

The editor of the Richmond Hill Liberal is certainly not a farmer, but somehow he professes a soft spot in his heart for the tiller of the soil, and he is going to defend him even to sowing on the Sabbath. After all it is not better to sow grain on the Sabbath than many of the "wild oats" that thousands set out to sow with motor car and folks say little about it. Here is what the Richmond Hill paper has to say on the issue:

"There is considerable discussion throughout the province on the subject of farmers working on Sundays. Last Sunday the drone of the tractor was heard on many York County farms, and some have questioned this use of the Lord's Day. Observance of the Sabbath is one of the landmarks we must zealously guard, and we are opposed to any move which would tend to give this country the open Sunday of other lands. However we know that due to the wet spring season war-time production on Ontario farms is facing a crisis and in such an emergency it is no time to quibble. Farm production is just as necessary as any other phase of the war-time efforts of our people, and if needed crops can be planted on Sunday. We don't think there are many who would find fault with the farmer who goes out to work the land on the Sabbath. It certainly is no worse than working in a munitions factory, and is more to be commended than Sunday golf, pleasure driving and the thousand and one other abuses of the Day of Rest to which we have become more or less accustomed. Few perhaps realize the seriousness of the late spring season. If we do not sow, we cannot reap and if we cannot reap we cannot eat. Sunday seeding like so many other things is a matter for the individual conscience, but we cannot see that there could be any public criticism if the hard pressed farmer does some sowing on the Sabbath."

### Voting by Proxy

One can hardly credit the idea of voting by proxy when it comes to governments, yet it is said the Ontario Government plans to take the overseas vote in this manner. Discussing the matter the Newmarket Era, usually well-informed editorially, says:

"In the Dominion elections of 1917 and 1940, soldiers were given a chance to vote for or against particular candidates in their home constituencies. That gave them a voice in government. But what Ontario proposes to do is to let each soldier give a proxy to a relative or friend, who will decide how to use the soldier's vote. Will this give expression to the soldier's opinion? It seems a waste of money and time. It merely gives some people two or three votes, while others will have only one. Members of the same family living in the same home do not always vote alike. There is even less reason to think that soldiers overseas and their friends or relatives at home would vote the same way."

### Never Again a National Party

Prof. F. H. Underhill, native son of Stouffville, speaking before the Canadian Historical and Political Science Association at Hamilton, made the following declaration, which if heeded by the Conservatives over Canada, will wind up a great political organization, but coming from Prof. Underhill, born a Liberal, the claim will be discounted. Here is what he said:

"The attempt of the Conservative Party in the past six months to rejuvenate itself may, it is true, restore something like the old two-party monopoly of Canadian politics. But the Conservatives have so long been unacceptable to Quebec and the Prairie Provinces and their deep-rooted British colonialism so unfits them for dealing with the new era of Canadian-American relations that they have probably lost the possibility of becoming again a national party."

### Sponsors of High School Complimented

This week the bylaw will be passed by York County Council creating a High School district at Stouffville in place of the present Continuation School district. The cost of operating a High School over a Continuation School is said to be practically nil, and the only difference is in the municipal set-up.

A high school, however, has a distinct advantage over a Continuation. It has added prestige and this means it attracts good teachers more readily, also the student likes to graduate from a high school in preference to something below that standard.

However, what we set out to say was to congratulate the School Board who have sponsored the change and seen it through to a successful ending. This same Board will be charged with the job of organizing the new municipal set-up for the conduct of the two schools, public and high. It entails a different accounting and separate bank accounts. Otherwise the school will go on as heretofore.

### Markham Township Gets More Polls

Markham Township is providing three extra polling divisions for election purposes. In place of eleven in use, there will be fourteen set up in the next voters' list. The Act provides that not more than 300 names shall vote in one poll. Sometimes this number is allowed to increase rather than to set up a new division for a few people, but the Markham situation needed the revision given it by the council last Monday.

## Sunday School Lesson

Lessons for June 13  
GOD'S EXCEEDING GREAT PROMISES

Golden Text—Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature.

2 Pet. 1:4

The Lesson as a Whole  
Peter was the only one of the twelve apostles who knew he could not live until the return of Christ. The Lord had told him definitely that he was to die as a martyr in the cause of the gospel. He had lived for over a third of a century since the time when the Lord Jesus Christ had so spoken to him. Now he was an old man. Paul had probably been martyred already. Peter refers to "all his epistles," that is, Paul's as in circulation among the churches. To him it was given to live a little longer and to continue witnessing the truth. But he realized that the end of his life on earth must be near. Soon he would move out of his fleshy tabernacle. Before giving up his ministry he wrote this last Letter as his final message to the scattered believers whom he loved so well. Though not definitely addressed in the same way, there can be no doubt that both Epistles were originally for the same group of Hebrew Christians, because of the way he writes of "this second epistle. . . unto you" in verse 1 of chapter 3.

In this last letter he has much to say of the Second Advent and of the importance of keeping prophetic truth in mind "whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place." He warns, too, of the false teachers who would ridicule "the promise of his coming." The safety of the saints was to be found in cleaving to the Word of God and growing in grace and in the knowledge of Christ. Notice Peter's use also, of the expression "stir up." He sought to arouse the saints to the importance of keeping in mind that which had been revealed by the prophets of old, and by the apostles of Christ, of whom perhaps only he and John remained alive. Even the most sincere Christians are apt to become self-complacent and to settle down forgetting that we need ever to be on the alert if we would really count for God, whose precious promises are given to cheer and encourage us on our pilgrim way, and to gird us with strength in the conflict with our spiritual foes. Shortly after writing this Epistle, Peter followed his Lord to a cross, where he did what he declared he would do so long before—that is, lay down his life for Christ's sake.

Verse by Verse

2 Pet. 1:1.—"Faith . . . through the righteousness of God." This is exactly opposite to that of which Paul so frequently speaks, "the righteousness . . . of God by faith." Paul presents that righteousness which God imputes to all those who put their faith in Christ. It is a by-faith righteousness, not a by-works righteousness. Peter has something altogether different in mind. Since Christ has died for all men, it is an exhibition of righteousness on the part of God to permit all to share in that faith by which they might be

## PRICE CEILINGS SET FOR NEW POTATOES

Effective June 7th, prices of new potatoes must not exceed the lawful ceiling prices for Canada No. 1 grade old potatoes. According to a Prices Board statement, this action has been taken because of the current acute shortage which is not likely to be relieved until this year's crop is harvested. It is not expected that new Canadian potatoes will appear on the market until around July 15.

## \$10,500 CONTRIBUTED BY HOLSTEIN BREEDERS

The York County Holstein Breeders' Club donated four heifer calves to the War Effort Calf Auction held May 26th at Brampton. These calves selected by club officials from the herds of Rankin C. Kellam, Weston, Eaton Hall Farm, King, Hon. Geo. S. Henry, Todmorden, and Stanley B. Watson, Agincourt, Glen Valley Rag Apple Alcartra, the Kellam entry, brought the highest price of the sale going to Quebec at \$450 after spirited bidding. The Watson heifer went to Rembo Farms, Wilton Grove, Ont., at \$285, the Henry calf realized \$215 going to Merle H. Green, Elsie, Mich., and the Eaton Hall animal was bid in by her donor at \$175.

saved. This faith comes, as we know, through hearing the word. It would be unrighteous for God to deny this to any man who really desired to be saved. Note that the places where these believers dwelt are not mentioned in the salutation here,

Verse 2.—"Grace and peace be multiplied through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord." It is not the grace that saves of which he here speaks, but the needed grace for each day to keep the feet from stumbling. Neither is it peace with God about one's sins that is in view, but the peace of God that preserves the heart from worry and anxiety. These are multiplied as one increases in the knowledge of the Father and the Son. The better one knows God by walking in His company and living in fellowship with Christ, the more one enjoys the grace and peace of which Peter speaks.

Verse 3.—"All things that pertain unto life and godliness" are thus communicated to the soul of the believer as he increases in "the knowledge of him that hath called us," not exactly "to glory and virtue" as in the Authorized Version, but rather "by his own glory and virtue" as in the Revised Version. The more we enter into that which is found in all perfection in Christ, the more we shall become like Him in practical experience.

Verse 4.—"That by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature." It is as we appreciate God's "exceeding great and precious promises" that we enjoy active participation in that holy fellowship which is here described. All believers have been born of God, and so have received a new and divine nature with which eternal life is linked. But partaking implies partnership or fellowship; and this becomes more and more real as we feed upon the Word and make the promises our own in a confident faith. Thus we escape the "corruption that is in the world through lust." The heart that

is occupied with Christ lives on a higher plane than that of the worldling. Carnal and selfish desires no longer dominate.

Verse 5—"Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue." We are to cleave to the Lord with purpose of heart. We do not grow in grace and become strong, healthy Christians apart from real exercise of soul. "The soul of the diligent shall be made fat." While we do not have here what might be called a sum in spiritual addition, yet the Revised Version is better than the Authorized Version in this instance. It reads "In your faith supply virtue." Faith is like the acorn, in which the great oak tree is potentially present. Out of a genuine faith all else comes which has to do with true Christian development. The virtue here is not merely personal purity, or chastity as we ordinarily understand that word to mean. It is really "valour" which is the virtue of the soldier. We forgive everything in a soldier but cowardice. He is expected above all else to be brave. So in our faith we should have the courage of our convictions, enabling us to stand for Christ in a scene of contrariety. Then in this valour we are to have "knowledge," for zeal without knowledge may lead into wild fanaticism; but zeal directed by an understanding of the Word leads on to increased blessing in our own souls and helpfulness to others.

Verse 6—"Temperance. . . . patience. . . . godliness." Following knowledge and flowing out from it, if properly assimilated and applied, we have "temperance" or self-control. It is true that the Christian is to be a Spirit-controlled man, but this does not imply that he is not to exercise himself in the matter. It is for him to keep his body under and bring its appetites into subjection. We are to bring our wills over to the side of Christ and to make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts. To this we are to add, or manifest, "patience." This is one of the Christian virtues in which many of us are lacking, and it is in order that we may grow in this grace also that tribulation is permitted. Out of this springs "godliness," which is true piety. The word itself means God-like-ness. Thus the Father's character is seen in His

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